

rectrices." From the series now in the Tring Museum, which embraces examples of all the species of the genus, I am able to state that there is no constant difference in size between *P. brehmi typica* and *P. brehmi pallida*, and that the sub-metallic bluish-green gloss on the lower surface of the rectrices is merely an individual character, obvious in some, quite absent in other specimens. I believe it is visible in quite freshly-moulted individuals. On the other hand there are sufficient differences in other respects, as explained by me in 'Novitates Zoologicae,' vol. iii. pp. 18 and 255.

The genus *Psittacella* thus constitutes itself as follows:—

1. *Psittacella brehmi* (Rosenb.), occurring in two forms:
 - a. *P. brehmi typica*, Arfak Mountains;
 - b. *P. brehmi pallida*, Owen Stanley Mountains.
2. *P. picta*, Rothsch., Mt. Victoria, Owen Stanley Mountains.
3. *P. modesta* (Schleg.), Arfak Mountains.
4. *P. madaraszii*, A. B. Meyer, Owen Stanley Mountains.

Hardly more than half of the great island of New Guinea having been explored, and that only, for the most part, insufficiently, we shall not be surprised if more new forms belonging to this genus are discovered.

VI.—On the Variations of a Lory (*Eos fuscata*) as exhibited by Specimens in the Turati Collection. By Prof. GIACINTO MARTORELLI (Civic Museum of Milan).

THE specimens of *Eos fuscata*, Blyth, of which I give the descriptions, are fourteen in number, and show every stage of development, from the nestling to the adult bird, with striking gradations between the yellow and the red coloration, which appear to be totally independent of age, sex, and geographical range. The red colour seems to replace the yellow only as an ordinary intensification of the yellow pigment, which becomes more or less red in various individuals, independently of their age.

Count Salvadori, in his 'Ornitologia della Papuasias e delle

Molucche' (pl. i. p. 266), has expressed his opinion that the principal characters of the young of *Eos fuscata* are—the acuminate form of the rectrices, the double band across the throat and breast not well distinguished, and the pale general colour. But in his catalogue of the Psittacidae (Brit. Mus. Cat. vol. xx. p. 31) he gives as a characteristic feature of the young the yellow colour “*where the adult bird is red.*”

The examination of the specimens belonging to the Turati Collection does not lead me to the last conclusion of Count Salvadori, though it is not impossible that a yellow-coloured young bird might pass into a red-coloured adult in some cases.

Dr. St. George Mivart, in his magnificent ‘Monograph of the Lorics’ (pp. 41, 42), is inclined to regard *Eos fuscata* as a “*dimorphic bird,*” and Wallace, as quoted by him, admitted two distinct varieties of this species. Finally, Dr. Ant. Reichenow, in his ‘Vögelbilder aus fernen Zonen, die Papageien’*, figures the adult *Domicella fuscata* as orange-coloured.

I now give short descriptions of the specimens of this Lory in the Turati Collection.

(a) No. 16249. Mansinam (*Laglaize*). Nestling (♀?).—

General colour saffron-red; the double band across the throat and breast not well defined; band on the nape indistinct, and passing gradually into the rusty-red colour of the hind neck; lower back and uropygium impure yellowish white; interscapular region rusty brown; central tail-feathers with their inner webs largely red; all the rectrices acuminate.

(b) No. 4124. New Guinea (*Verreaux*). Young (♀?).—

The red colour on the lower parts more restricted than in the preceding specimen, and inclining to orange on the abdomen; the bands on the nape, throat, and breast not well defined; interscapular region dark brown, edged with greyish; lower back and uropygium more distinctly yellowish white; tail-feathers acuminate, the central ones with a narrow red space on the inner web.

* Fig. 9, tab. 31 (edit. Kassel, 1878-83).

- (c) No. 8718. Havre Dorey (*Frank*). Young (?).—The band on the nape olive, well defined; the two bands on the throat and breast very narrow, but clearly separated from the interposed dark brown space; the yellow colour slightly inclining to orange on the belly, and especially on the tibiae; back blackish brown, with whitish edgings near the base of the neck; inner secondaries olive-brown; *tail-feathers not acuminated*.
- (d) No. 15127, ♀. Havre Dorey (*Doria, ex Brujin*). Adult.—Vertex and nape olive-yellow; bands on the throat and breast; middle of the abdomen bright yellow, perfectly defined from the blackish brown of the thoracic bands and sides of the body; tibiae tinged with orange and minium; interseapular region black; inner webs of tail-feathers, on the basal portion, orange; inner secondaries with an olive tinge.
- (e) No. 15126. Geelvink Bay, New Guinea. Adult.—Differs from the preceding in the more intense orange tinge on the underparts and the bright minium of the tibiae. On the vertex a tinge of chestnut. The inner webs of the outer primaries with distinct orange tinge.
- (f) No. 9392. New Guinea (*Schneider*). Adult.—Bright orange on the underparts, except the tibiae, which are red; flanks and thoracic band dark brown; innermost secondaries inclining to maroon.
- (g) No. 9393. New Guinea (*Schneider*). Adult.—The nape olive-yellow; an intense chestnut tinge on the vertex; the anterior bands orange, as also the middle of the abdomen and the bases of the tail-feathers; inner secondaries chestnut.
- (h) No. 19756. Fly River, New Guinea (*Whitely*). Adult.—Nape olive-yellow; the chestnut tinge on the vertex more intense; on the two anterior bands and abdomen the yellow feathers are broadly edged with red, and the tibiae tinged with scarlet. The red edges appear also on the yellow part of the outer primaries; inner webs of tail-feathers with orange-red bases.
- (i) No. 19755. Fly River, New Guinea (*Whitely*). Adult.—

Like the preceding, but more intensely coloured, and with the bands across the throat bright yellow.

- (j) No. 19757. Fly River (*Whitely*). Adult.—Nape olive-yellow; throat-band yellow mixed with large orange spaces; vertex deep rusty red; band on the breast, middle of the abdomen, and tibiæ almost entirely scarlet; tail-feathers with orange bases; inner secondaries ochraceous.
- (k) No. 15125, 12 (xii.) 1875. Surui, Jobi. Adult.—Nape olive-yellow; no yellow on the anterior parts, where the feathers have a dark orange-red tinge on the two bands, the abdomen, and the tibiæ; innermost great coverts and inner secondaries intense maroon; tail-feathers with red bases on the inner webs.
- (l) No. 520. New Guinea (?), 1872. Adult.—In the same plumage as the preceding.
- (m) No. 4123. New Guinea (*Verreaux*). Adult ♂.—Nape dark olive-yellow; band on the throat minium, that on the breast scarlet like the abdomen and tibiæ; inner secondaries maroon; tail-feathers with the basal portions of inner webs minium.
- (n) No. 16248. Amberbaki (*Laglaize*). ♀.—Band on the nape dark ochraceous; throat and breast, middle abdomen and tibiæ deep scarlet, sharply separated from the dark brown colour of the thoracic band and flanks; inner secondaries maroon; inner webs of the tail-feathers and primaries also scarlet.

To recapitulate, it appears from the preceding descriptions (1) that the red colour has a tendency to replace the yellow from the lower parts to the higher ones, beginning from the tibiæ and going upwards to the throat; (2) that at the same time the amount of the rusty red or maroon tinge on the inner secondaries becomes greater; (3) that the immature birds, whether they belong to the red or to the yellow form, have *always acuminated tail-feathers*, and the coloured bands on the anterior parts not well defined and less brightly coloured.